

**Flexible Guiding: Games for face to face meetings**

Evelyn Smith from Renfrewshire runs Brownies, Guides and Rangers. We asked her to share her top games for face to face meetings. If you’re looking for new ideas, pick and mix from the list below. They’ve all been tried and tested with girls and are suitable for all sections unless specified. They can be played indoors or outdoors.

**Pair games**

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| **Game** | **Description** | **Time** | **Equipment** |
| **Impossible fingers** | Make your hand into a fist on a table, palm side down. Pull out your ring finger (one next to your little finger). Now, keeping your fist on the table, can that finger move by itself? | 5 mins | None |
| **No blinking** | Stand facing your partner with about 20cm between your noses. Stare at each other, and see who can last the longest without blinking or laughing). | 5 mins | None |
| **Strong arm** | Person one puts her hand on top of her head. Person two, using one hand only and grasping only the wrist, tries to lift person one’s hand off her head. | 5 mins | None |
| **Stand up**  (Rainbows & Brownies only) | Each pair sits back to back on the floor with elbows interlinked. They try to stand up keeping arms linked. (2) Try it with different height pairs (3) try it with 4 people linked | 15 mins | None |

**Small group games**

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| **Game** | **Description** | **Time** | **Equipment** |
| **Sharp reflexes**  (pens) | Play in pairs. Face each other one metre apart. Each holds a pen in left hand outstretched at shoulder level, stare at each other and suddenly drop pen. Can the partner catch the pen? | 10 mins | Pen |
| **Human knot**  (string) | Each holds one end of a 1.5-metre-long piece of string. Without letting go the end of the string, they try to tie a reef knot. | 10 mins | Piece of string |
| **One letter food** | Can be done in teams. Write all letters of alphabet on pieces of paper. Lay them face down. Person one picks up a paper and has five seconds to suggest a healthy food beginning with the letter. If the others agree, she gets a point. The second person does the same etc. | 10 mins | Pen and paper to create 26 letter cards |
| **Work of art** | Everyone has a piece of paper, draw a picture to represent a well-known book, film or TV program. Fold the down top, pass paper to next person, they write at the bottom what it is, fold paper under, then the next person writes who is in it, next person the pet’s name, or venue, each time folding it so next person can’t see it. Mix them up then leader reads out. | 10 mins | Pen and paper |

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| **Book balance** | Find the team in walking 40 paces with the most books balanced on her head. | 15 mins | Books |
| **Desert Island List** | In five minutes write down three things you would take to live two weeks on a deserted island. Explain reasons for your choices to rest of the group. Island has t-shirts, shorts, boots, mangos, water there are fish in the sea but no fishing nets. | 20 mins | Pen and paper |
| **Two-hands game** | Team one shows, team two remembers. Team one each have a small object in each hand. Each show hand one then hand two; saying I am *name* & I have *1st item* & *2nd item.* Then close hands, putting arms behind them. When they have all shown, leader asks questions to team two people e.g. what has Jane got in her right hand? Who had a pencil etc? | 20 mins | Around 10 small objects |

**Whole group games**

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| **Game** | **Description** | **Time** | **Equipment** |
| **Tele message** | Each person in turn calls out a letter, until you have at least six letters. Each person makes up a message with the words beginning with each of the letters in the order they were called out. The messages must make sense. 20 points for first 10 for others. | No time limit | Pen and paper |
| **Line challenge** | Without using a ruler, try to draw a line which is exactly 15cm long. Check with a ruler and see who was nearest. | 5 mins | Pen, paper and rules |
| **Buzz** | Sit in a circle, start counting out loud in turn, but whenever a five occurs in a number, just say ‘BUZZ’ e.g. 15 = BUZZ, 25 = BUZZ & when any multiple of five occurs e.g. 5, 10, 15 say BUZZ. Now try it with 4 if you haven’t already confused everyone by then. | 5 mins | None |
| **Nose and hands** | Each person holds left ear with right hand, and their nose with left hand. Leader says ‘change’ everyone must change, holding right ear, left hand and nose with right hand) Leader keeps saying ‘change’ see who can keep going the longest without making a mistake. | 5 mins | None |
| **Tebathla** | Who can say the alphabet backwards in the fastest time? | 5 mins | None |
| **Earth, air and water** | Sit or stand in a circle, the first person throws ball to named friend saying either “Earth” or “air” or ”water”. While all count out loud to 10, the catcher must name an animal, bird or fish which lives in earth, air or water. No repeats. If they fail, the first person gets ball back. If they succeed, game continues and ball is thrown to a new catcher. | 10 mins | Ball |
| **Hands up** | Each person draws round their hand on their piece of paper. Leader collects papers and shuffles them. Later, leader lays out the hands. How many can identify their own hand. | 10 mins | Pen and paper |
| **Name chain**  (Guides only) | First person says a girl’s name, second person says a girl’s name starting with the last letter of the previous name, third person adds a name e.g. Jane, Ethel, Lyn. Try this with other names e.g. towns, countries, pop groups, animals | 10 mins | None |
| **Word cross**  (Guides only) | Everyone draws a square, divides it by three lines each way to make 16 squares. Each person in turn calls out a letter. Everyone writes it in one of the squares on their paper. Continue until all 16 squares are filled. Once it’s in their grid, no letter can be moved or crossed out. The aim is to make three or four-letter words either across or down the square. Words can overlap e.g. PEAR would also give PEA and EAR. Score four for each four-letter word and three for each three-letter word. | 10 mins | Pen, paper and ruler |
| **Pass-along game** | Group stands in circle, facing outwards. Leader passes objects BEHIND people’s backs to be passed along until everyone has handled everything. Objects are then hidden. Everyone draws or writes down all of the objects that were passed round. | 15 mins | Selection of 12-16 small objects, pen and paper |
| **Invisibility game** | Play the game above without objects, Instead the leader mimes use of objects e.g. comb, hat, scissors, ketchup, hot drink, hankie, scarf, jacket, pc keyboard, play piano, keys, skipping rope, watch etc. At the end all have two minutes to say or write down the list of objects. | 15 mins | Pen and paper |
| **Rising circles** | The group sits in a circle, everyone cross-legged with their arms round each other’s shoulders. At a signal, they all try to stand up without breaking hold. | 15 mins | None |
| **Jigsaws**  (Brownies & Guides only) | Explain that everyone will make a jigsaw to avoid girls getting upset. Each person has five minutes to draw and colour a quick sketch/picture. Then they tear it up into 12 pieces and give pieces to next person. See who can make up their jigsaw first. | 15 mins | Pens and paper |
| **Human noughts and crosses** | Two teams (one=noughts, one=cross), nine chairs in 3x3 formation. Ask questions. As each team gets one right one of their team becomes a nought or cross in grid of nine chairs, first straight-line wins. | 20 mins | Pen, paper and chairs |
| **Race-ball** | Group makes a circle, one player outside. The ball is passed round inside circle, player outside must race it. Player making most circuits whilst ball goes around twice wins. | 20 mins | Ball |
| **Odd animal** | Take turns throwing a dice to draw an animal. One = leg; Two = tail; Three = head; Four = neck; Five = ear and Six = body. Whatever you throw, you must add the part to your drawing – so you could end up with an animal that has three heads four tails and one leg etc. | 20 mins | Dice, pen and paper |
| **1,2,3 elephant** | Everyone stands in a circle. Person in the middle points to a girl in the circle and says ‘1, 2, 3, elephant’. As they say Elephant, the person being pointed at must have arm at their nose (the trunk) and her two neighbours must have hands flat at the ears of the person being pointed at to make an elephant. The slowest of the three goes in the middle. Then repeat. | 20 mins | None |
| **Do you remember me?** | Each person talks about themselves for two minutes e.g. name, hometown, pets, hobbies, favourite colour, food, book, film etc. Everyone listens. Then the leader writes each name on separate papers, folds each one. After everyone has spoken, everyone takes a piece of paper, writes down as much as they can remember about the person named on their paper. Who remembers most? | At least  20 mins | Pen and paper |